

Alabama Department of Archives & History

**Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2023**

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Alabama Department of Archives & History

Annual Report **Fiscal Year 2023**

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Collect. Preserve. Share.

Since 1901, the Alabama Department of Archives & History (ADAH) has been the home of Alabama history. The first state-funded historical agency in the United States, the ADAH was established to collect and preserve the historical materials of the people of Alabama, and to use that material in sharing their stories. For nearly 125 years, the ADAH has grown both in its capacity and its approach to accomplish that mission.

Located in Montgomery, the ADAH serves our state as the principal repository for materials ranging from official government records to papers, photographs, and recordings created in the private sector. It also serves as an educational center by offering programs, resources, and training for educators, government officials, students, researchers, and history enthusiasts. The immersive learning environment of the ADAH's Museum of Alabama provides a welcoming and engaging space for visitors of all ages and backgrounds to explore Alabama's story.



ADAH Board of Trustees

The Alabama Legislature created the Alabama Department of Archives and History (ADAH) in 1901 and charged its governing Board of Trustees with selecting board members who must be confirmed by the State Senate for each six-year term they serve. The Board of Trustees consists of two members from each congressional district, two at-large members, and the Governor or her designee. Possessing diverse backgrounds and politics, the trustees share an interest in history, a commitment to public service, and a belief in the mission of the ADAH as a place of stewardship and education. The Board meets quarterly.



Delores R. Boyd, Chair
7th Congressional District



Julian D. Butler, Vice Chair
5th Congressional District



J. Schley Rutherford Jr.
1st Congressional District



Elizabeth P. Stevens
1st Congressional District



Horace H. Horn Jr.
2nd Congressional District



Gale Saxon Main
2nd Congressional District



Fred D. Gray
3rd Congressional District



Barbara Patton
3rd Congressional District



Bobby M. Junkins
4th Congressional District



Alyce M. Spruell
4th Congressional District



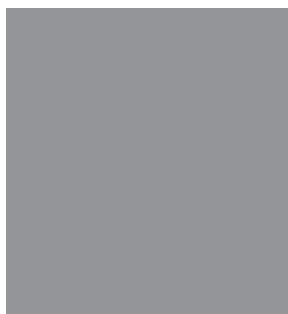
C. Lynwood Smith
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Vacant
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Leigh Davis
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Marcus Reid
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Gov. Kay Ivey
Ex Officio



The Department of Archives & History is pleased to present this report on our agency's activities on behalf of Alabamians during FY 2023. It was an eventful year at the Archives, with our routine services being delivered at a high rate of

efficiency and augmented by special initiatives that will strengthen our capacity moving forward. Some of these included design work on a new round of exhibition improvements in the Museum of Alabama, the first full year of operation of our new website, and the launching of a new statewide survey of government records held locally.

Each of these avenues, and the others represented in this report, demonstrates our commitment to improve steadily the agency's stewardship of Alabama's fascinating, consequential history. We undertake this work in the dynamic setting of the 21st century, where technology and public expectations of cultural institutions evolve rapidly.

It is not uncommon to hear descriptions of the Archives as "Alabama's attic," evoking images of a dusty storehouse where the state's history accumulates in a neglected and haphazard way. It is a metaphor we discourage, not least because our team works diligently to keep our storage areas and public spaces clean and orderly, but also because spending a half-hour at the Archives will convince most visitors that it is a lively place, full of activity, learning, and enthusiasm.

Proceeding down a corridor on any given day, you might encounter a 4th-grade class on a field trip, a family researching their genealogy, local officials attending records-management training, and members of nonprofit organizations meeting about cemetery preservation or connecting rural schools with their local history.

Behind the scenes, staff are digitizing 200-year-old court records and 20-year-old television news footage, making both more accessible to today's students and researchers in ways once unimaginable. In other rooms, curators are preparing a magnificent quilt for display,

and archivists are processing newly donated letters between an Alabama serviceman in Normandy during WWII and his parents back home. In the registrar's office, staff are meeting with Mobile designers of Mardi Gras gowns who are considering donating their treasured handiwork to the Archives and, therefore, to the people of Alabama.

We are grateful to the Legislature for appropriating the funding necessary to make this work possible, and to the citizens and the government agencies who entrust us with the materials documenting their lives and work.

The essence of the ADAH's mission is stewardship. We seek every day to perform that responsibility guided by core values:

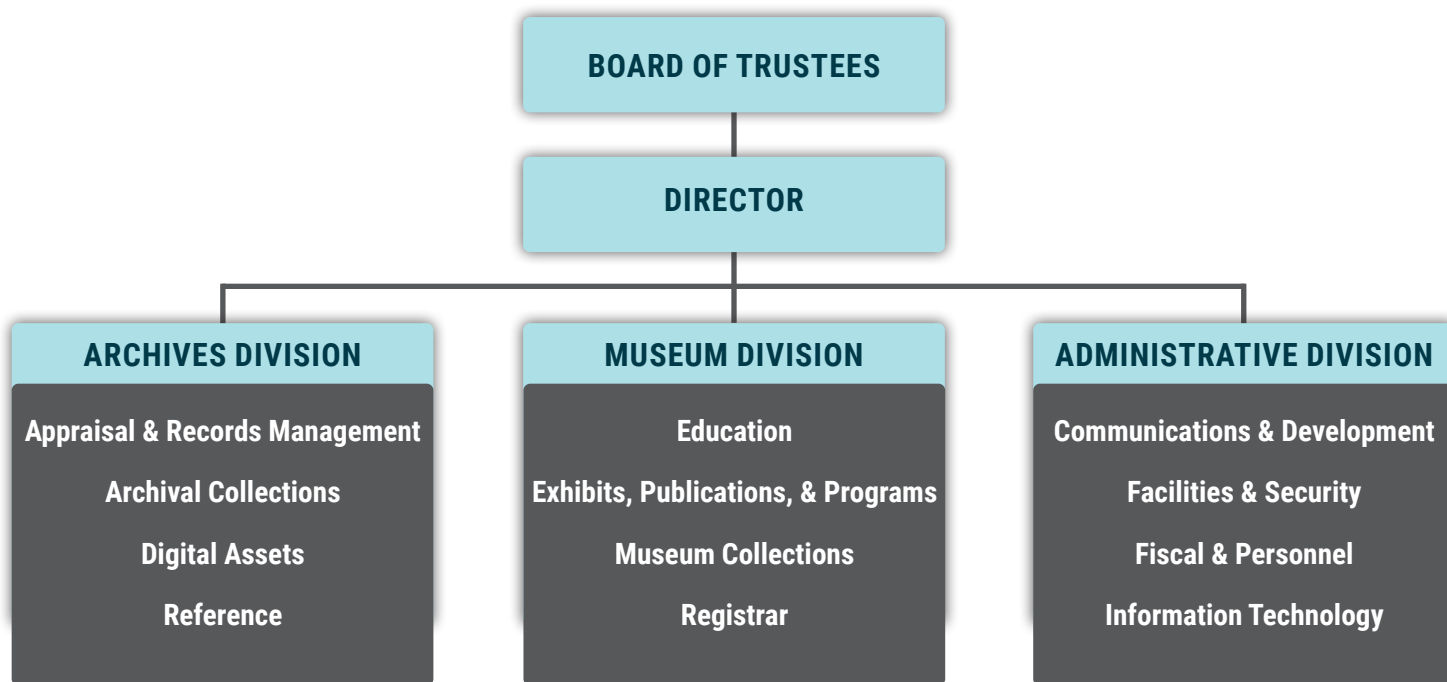
- » A commitment to *integrity* in the management of historical and financial resources
- » A spirit of *service* in responding to the needs represented by every walk-in visitor, phone call, and e-mail
- » A dedication to *whole history*, believing that history serves the present best when it takes into account the experiences and perspectives of all those who have called Alabama home

In 1919, Archives director Thomas McAdory Owen summarized the work of the agency he founded eighteen years earlier: "The Department is in every sense one of service and help. It aspires to be an uplifting, refining, and stimulating force in State life, and in a high degree it is meeting these ideals."

Though the scope and methods of collecting have grown far beyond those of Owen and his contemporaries, his sentiment pervades the Archives still. For almost 125 years, the agency's Board of Trustees, alongside staff and dedicated volunteers, have worked to collect, preserve, and share the story of Alabama and its people. It is a story worth remembering. It is a story worth protecting.

This is the work of the Alabama Department of Archives & History, creating and sustaining a place for our stories to live.

Organization of the ADAH



Staffing in FY23:

62
Full-Time
Employees

12
Part-Time
Employees

15
Students Workers
& Interns

42
Volunteers

3,931
Hours Served
in FY23

ADAH Volunteer Program



The ADAH's volunteer program has been essential to the daily work of the agency for decades. Every week, our dedicated volunteer cohort greets visitors, leads school tours, helps process collections, and provides support to our staff. Several volunteers have been part of the ADAH team for more than three decades. Throughout the year, enrichment field trips are organized to help volunteers and staff better understand different historical events in our state. This year, volunteers toured Sloss Furnaces National Historic Landmark, Birmingham Botanical Gardens, and Horseshoe Bend National Military Park (right).

ADAH Financial Summary FY 2023

	GENERAL FUND	EDUCATION TRUST FUND	ARCHIVES SERVICES FUND	RESTRICTED FUNDS	FEDERAL GRANTS	TOTAL
REVENUE						
Prior Year Closing Balances		*2,718,655	706,244	13,927		3,438,826
Appropriations	1,889,750	7,618,890				9,508,640
Supplemental Appropriation		†5,000,000				5,000,000
Generated Revenue			366,932			366,932
Donations						0
Federal Grants					19,083	19,083
TOTAL	\$1,889,750	\$15,337,545	\$1,073,176	\$13,927	\$19,083	\$18,333,481
EXPENDITURES & ENCUMBRANCES						
Personnel		3,458,102	87,345			3,545,447
Benefits		1,370,263	41,418			1,411,681
In-State Travel		10,993				10,993
Out-of-State Travel		64,429				64,429
Repairs		13,683				13,683
Rentals	1,889,750	826,449	157,151			2,873,350
Utilities		161,244	28,091			189,335
Professional Services		383,395	5,556			388,951
Supplies		374,773	1,845			376,618
Transportation Operations		7,644				7,644
Grants		231,737			19,083	250,820
Transporation Equipment		40,696				40,696
Equipment		230,071				230,071
TOTAL	\$1,889,750	\$7,173,480	\$321,406	\$0	\$19,083	\$9,403,719
CLOSING BALANCES	\$0	*†\$8,164,065	\$751,770	\$13,927	\$0	\$8,929,762

*Reserved for capital projects including improvements to museum exhibits, collections acquisitions, and collections storage in FY24

† Legislative earmark for improvements to museum exhibits and purchase of real property; to be committed in FY24

Our Facilities

624 WASHINGTON AVENUE The Archives building has been the home of Alabama's history for generations. The central portion of the building, which opened to national acclaim in 1940, has interior walls lined with white marble quarried in Sylacauga. Additions to the building in 1974 and 2005 completed the original vision for an H-shaped structure and provided more space for records storage, exhibits, and educational and public programming. The final expansion, which included a state-of-the-art research room, also paved the way for an overhaul of the Archives' exhibit spaces, resulting in the Smithsonian-quality Museum of Alabama.



STATE RECORDS CENTER A leased warehouse facility in northeast Montgomery houses the State Records Center, which stores records owned by other state agencies. Records Center staff provide retrieval services and track authorized records-destruction schedules. This service helps agencies maintain compliance with their Records Disposition Authority (RDA).

> Learn more about the State Records Center at archives.alabama.gov/manage/state/records-center.aspx

FY 2023 By the Numbers

> Collections

137

Government Records
Collections Acquired



97

Special Collections
Acquired

50

Artifact Collections Acquired,
Totaling **361 Objects**



181

Archival Collections
Processed, Totaling
1,361 Cubic Feet

141

Electronic Records
Collections Processed,
Totaling **9 Gigabytes**



72,403

Cubic Feet in Total
Archival Collections

6,557

Gigabytes in Total Electronic
Records Holdings

>400K

Artifacts in Total Museum
Collections

> Access

1,300

Patrons Visited the
EBSCO Research Room

4,509

Email, Mail, & Phone
Inquiries Answered



158,909

Users Browsed
Digital Collections

228,827

New Digital Files Created



915,612

Digitized Items
Available Online



619

Hours of WSFA-TV's
Historical News
Footage Digitized

8,881

Alabama Media
Group Photographs
Digitized

> Records Management & Museum Services

6

State Agency
RDAs Approved



1,369

People Attended **82 Training
Sessions** on Records
Management

73

Local Organizations
Representing **30
Counties** Served by
Museum Services Staff

> Alabama Department of Archives & History

> Museum of Alabama

30,191

People Visited
the Museum



19,209

K-12 Visitors Toured
on Field Trips

99%

Of Teachers Surveyed
Rated Tour Experience
as "Excellent"



> K-12 Outreach

1,343

Students Participated
in Virtual Field Trips

95

Educators Attended an
Alabama History Institute



5,837

K-12 Students Used a
Traveling Backpack

> Public Programs



47

Public Programs Presented,
Totaling **51.5 Hours**

2,594

People Attended a
Live Public Program

13,613

Viewers of FY23 Program
Recordings on YouTube

> Outreach & Promotion

26,700

Facebook
Followers

12,429

YouTube Channel
Subscribers

415,432

Website Page Views

3,383

X (Twitter)
Followers



1,831

Present & Past News
Magazine Subscribers

1,334

Instagram
Followers

15,926

Email Subscribers



> Staffing

62



Full-Time Staff

3,931

Hours
Contributed by
42 Volunteers

Year in Review



> A New Capital Project to Update & Enhance the Museum of Alabama

The ADAH launched a major capital project to expand and enhance the Museum of Alabama. Design work will continue into 2025, with exhibit fabrication and installation beginning that summer. New exhibits will open in early 2026, when the agency will mark its 125th anniversary of service to the state and the 250th anniversary of the founding of the nation. The project will include a new Children's Gallery (above, left); a new permanent exhibition featuring stories of Alabamians in military service (above, right); a redesigned exhibition about Native American history and culture; and updates and enhancements to *Alabama Voices*, the Museum's centerpiece exhibition. Exterior and lobby improvements will make the building more approachable and welcoming to visitors. Funding for the project includes legislative appropriations and private-sector donations.

> New ADAH Website Makes Alabama History Accessible



At the end of FY22 the Archives debuted a new website, the culmination of a multi-year project to improve and enhance our online presence. The new site features powerful new research tools, user-friendly databases for educators and public officials, information for planning visits to the Museum of Alabama, and many more opportunities for the public to connect with the ADAH and Alabama history online. During its first year of service, the new site offered a significantly improved experience for researchers, public officials, educators, and tourists.

archives.alabama.gov

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE NEW SITE INCLUDE:

- » Robust databases for conducting historical and genealogical research in the ADAH's extensive archival collections.
- » The **Alabama History Hub**, a one-stop K-12 educator resource for finding primary sources, lesson plans, and classroom activities curated by ADAH staff.
- » An easy-to-navigate events calendar for information about upcoming ADAH programs.
- » Overviews of the Museum of Alabama's exhibits, along with useful information for planning a visit or field trip.
- » A new database of retention schedules and other records management resources for state and local government offices.



Sen. David Sessions with students from Grand Bay (Mobile Co.) during their spring 2023 field trip.

> Museum of Alabama Welcomes More Than 19,000 K-12 Visitors

A field trip to Montgomery would not be complete without a visit to the Museum of Alabama at the ADAH. In FY23, 19,209 K-12 visitors explored and engaged with the rich history of our state in our exhibit galleries. Teachers are invited to complete a brief survey about the experience of their students following their guided tours. **Of the 553 educators who completed the survey, 99% rated their tour experience as excellent.** Representative comments include:

We love how well this exhibit matches our standards and curriculum. It felt like we were able to walk through the history we have learned all year! Thank you!

Our guide was incredible. He was very knowledgeable and attentive to our students' questions. The way he presented our state history was perfect for our group.

Very engaging! Everything was explained in a great way for this age of students to understand.



> Another Successful Summer of Alabama History Institutes

In June, ninety-five Alabama K-12 educators representing thirty-one counties participated in the ADAH's sixth summer of Alabama History Institutes (AHI). Held in eight locations, these three-day workshops equipped educators with resources and content to strengthen social studies instruction in their classrooms. Participants learned a variety of engaging and creative ways to use primary sources, such as historical photographs and archival documents. They also experienced firsthand the local history found in all corners of our state. Teachers participated in an archaeological dig in Florence and visited sites such as Sloss Furnaces in Birmingham and the Poarch Creek Museum in Atmore. They met Alabamians like Gloria Randall, who was a foot soldier in the 1963 Children's Crusade, and Rabbi Steve Silberman, who preserves oral histories in Mobile's Jewish community. Participants came away with a deeper understanding of the opportunities and resources available to their students.

Year in Review

> New Temporary Exhibit & Public Programs



On September 10, 2022, the Museum of Alabama opened a new temporary exhibit, *Alabama Radio Moments*. The exhibit explored ways in which radio influenced the lives of Alabamians in the twentieth century—how they learned about current events, enjoyed sports and music, and connected with the world beyond their local community. *Alabama Radio Moments* was presented in partnership between the ADAH and the Birmingham-based Alabama Historical Radio Society (AHRs). The exhibit was on view through June 2023. As a companion to the exhibit, the ADAH also hosted a monthly lecture series featuring various aspects of Alabama's radio history and created a new online exhibit that remains available to explore virtually through this link.

archives.alabama.gov/visit/exhibits/online.aspx



> HALLOWEEN AT THE ARCHIVES

Costumes and candy filled the Archives' halls on Friday, October 28, 2022, during our inaugural Halloween at the Archives family event. We welcomed more than 300 visitors, many for the first time, during the two fun-filled hours that featured a scavenger hunt in the Museum of Alabama, an exhibit of curious collections, spooky crafts in the Hands-On Gallery, and special readings of a children's book.

> BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT

On Saturday, February 11, 2022, nearly 200 visitors attended our inaugural Black History Month Event, which included a museum scavenger hunt, a children's book reading, crafts, a temporary exhibit, and special presentations. Community partner organizations, including museums, non-profits, and historical societies, joined us for the event, sharing with attendees how they help preserve and share Alabama's Black history. The day culminated with a presentation by Dr. Shelley Stewart (top, right). Known as one of the voices of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Stewart shared stories from his time at Birmingham's WENN-AM.



> Museum Services Continues Census Program

Museum Services staff continued a five-year rolling census program launched in FY22. This project will enable the ADAH to create and maintain useful data about Alabama's local historical organizations. Conducted annually in one of five defined geographic regions, ADAH staff ask local organizations to complete a survey about the scope of their missions and daily operations. This information will help the ADAH better serve local organizations through its field services program and also build a central resource for anyone looking for information about specific historical organizations. This fiscal year, 117 organizations completed a survey.

> State Historical Records Board Launches Local Records Survey

The Alabama State Historical Records Advisory Board (SHRAB) provides leadership and guidance to identify, preserve, and provide access to Alabama's historical records. The SHRAB also promotes a strengthened awareness of the importance of historical records to policy makers and to the public, and it serves as a state affiliate of the National Historical Publications and Records Commission.

The SHRAB met on March 1, 2023, with a reconstituted membership and in response to growing concern about local government capacity to care for historical public records. The board agreed to undertake a statewide assessment of the status of permanent records held by Alabama's probate judges and circuit clerks. The work will update what is known from a similar assessment conducted in the mid-1980s and provide insights on how the SHRAB and the ADAH can best support the preservation of historically significant records in Alabama's sixty-seven counties.

> NAGPRA Project Progresses

In 2018, the ADAH self-reported its non-compliance with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA), a federal law that provides a process for museums and federal agencies to return Native American ancestral remains and funerary items to federally recognized tribes. The collections-management work and tribal consultations necessary to attain compliance has been an agency priority in the years since.

During FY23, the ADAH completed consultation on 115 sets of ancestral remains and 4,680 funerary objects in Phase 1 of the compliance project. The Board of Trustees concluded deaccession, or removal of the materials from the agency's official holdings, making it possible to enter repatriation agreements with federally recognized tribes that submit claims.

» [Learn more at archives.alabama.gov/nagpra](https://archives.alabama.gov/nagpra).

> Engaging Our Native Partners



In January 2023, ADAH staff traveled to Oklahoma to meet with tribal partners and to visit museums and cultural centers that preserve the histories of tribes with ties to Alabama. Stops included the Oklahoma Historical Society, the First Americans Museum, the Chickasaw Cultural Center, the Choctaw Cultural Center, and the seat of government of the Muscogee Creek Nation (above). The trip was a valuable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the complex histories and vibrant cultures of indigenous communities today.

In April, representatives of several tribal nations visited the ADAH to complete consultation on Phase I NAGPRA materials and to discuss plans for the redesign of Native American content in the Museum of Alabama.

Collect

The ADAH collects records and artifacts that document the stories and experiences of Alabamians throughout history. These materials become part of the ADAH's permanent collections and belong to all the citizens of our state.

THE ADAH COLLECTS:

- » **GOVERNMENT RECORDS:** Official records documenting the decisions and actions of government, including the state constitutions, legislation, minutes of boards and commissions, and reports.
- » **SPECIAL COLLECTIONS:** Non-governmental records created by families, individuals, and organizations that describe events in Alabama or document the lives of Alabamians. These include letters, diaries, scrapbooks, photographs, maps, and video and audio recordings.
- » **ARTIFACTS:** A wide range of three-dimensional objects documenting Alabama people and places, from quilts and uniforms to portraits and political ephemera.
- » **REFERENCE MATERIALS:** Books and other reference materials that focus primarily on Alabama.
- » **DIGITAL NEWSPAPERS:** Daily and weekly titles from across the state documenting daily life in communities.
- » **STATE AGENCY ELECTRONIC PUBLICATIONS:** Periodic publications that report state government activities.

COLLECTIONS ACCESSIONED IN FY2023	COLLECTIONS	VOLUME
Government Records (Paper)	47	763 cubic feet
Government Records (Electronic)	90	233 gigabytes
Special Collections (Paper)	91	158 cubic feet
Special Collections (Electronic)	6	1.3 gigabytes
Artifacts	50	361 objects
TOTAL	284	

OTHER MATERIALS ACQUIRED	QUANTITY
Digital Newspapers	3,948 issues
State Agency Publications	870 documents; 3.15 gigabytes
Books and other materials	89 items

What is a Collection?

A collection can consist of a single item, like a campaign button, letter, or photograph (our smallest new collections of FY23), or many items, like one of our largest new special collections that totaled 60 cubic feet.

> Interested in Donating Materials to the ADAH?

Contact Registrar Haley Aaron at haley.aaron@archives.alabama.gov or (334) 353-4726.

ADAH Collections at Other Institutions

The ADAH often lends materials from its permanent collections to other museums and institutions to help them better tell the stories of Alabamians. Items from our collections were on display or available for use at the following locations in FY23.

- » Africatown Heritage House
- » Alabama Cattlemen's Association MOOseum
- » Alabama Governor's Mansion
- » Alabama State Capitol
- » Confederate Memorial Park
- » Fort Morgan
- » Alabama Supreme Court and State Law Library
- » Attorney General's Office
- » USS *Alabama* Battleship Memorial Park
- » *Beauvoir*, Jefferson Davis Home
- » Juliette Hampton Morgan Memorial Library
- » Kennedy-Douglass Center for the Arts
- » Landmarks Foundation of Montgomery
- » Lawrence County Archives
- » Poarch Band of Creek Indians Museum
- » Tannehill State Park/Iron and Steel Museum of Alabama
- » Tuscaloosa County Probate Court
- » United States District Courthouse, Montgomery
- » City of Wetumpka/Elmore County Museum

The ADAH processes and preserves historical materials in its permanent collections to ensure that they will be available for future generations to study and enjoy.



In FY2023:

181

Archival Collections
Processed, Totaling
1,361 Cubic Feet

141

Electronic Records
Collections Processed,
Totaling 9 Gigabytes

72,403

Cubic Feet in
ADAH's Total
Archival Collections

6,557

Gigabytes in
ADAH's Total Electronic
Records Holdings

>400,000

Museum Artifacts in
the ADAH's Collections

Electronic Records Preservation

Born-digital records require a special electronic preservation environment to provide long-term protection against file deterioration. The same system provides public access at adah.access.preservica.com.

5,022 Electronic Records Users in FY23

21,513 Page Views

Terms To Know:

ACCESSION:

To accept legal ownership of materials for addition to the permanent collections.

PROCESSING COLLECTIONS:

Organizing and cataloging materials held in permanent collections.

ELECTRONIC RECORDS:

Records created digitally and not digitized from an analog format.

DIGITAL COLLECTIONS:

Materials originally produced on paper, film, or tape and scanned to provide online access.

**1 ARCHIVAL
CUBIC FOOT BOX =
12" x 15" x 10"**

How Does the ADAH Preserve Its Collections?

Archivists and curators use several essential tools to ensure that collections will be available for future generations.

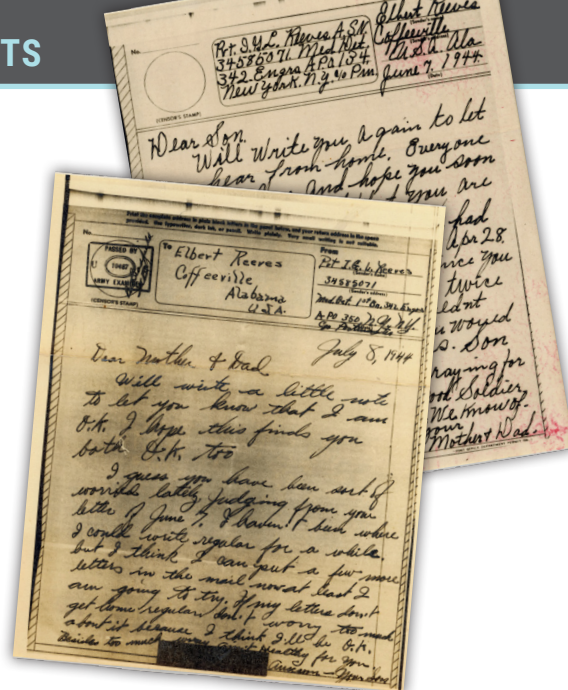
- » Proper temperature and humidity
- » Proper light levels
- » Acid-free boxes and folders
- » Controlled access to storage areas
- » Fire protection
- » Regular monitoring

I. G. Leighton Reeves Collection

On June 7, 1944, Clarke County resident Naomi Reeves wrote a letter of encouragement to her son, combat medic I. G. Leighton Reeves. "Son, me and your dad are praying for you," she wrote. "We know you are a good soldier, and we are proud of you. We know of the invasion too." Eight days after participating in the D-Day invasion at Normandy, Reeves replied, "I have been sorta busy lately."

Reeves and his parents exchanged dozens of letters between December 1942 and October 1945. Today, their correspondence documents ways in which Alabama families anxiously awaited news from soldiers serving overseas and how letters from home provided much needed words of encouragement in difficult times.

Reeves served in the military during World War II and the Korean War, achieving the rank of sergeant. After completing his military career, he returned to Alabama and taught high school social studies in Mobile and Clarke counties. The Reeves collection has been donated to the Archives by his daughter, Mary Reeves Shirey.



Rufus W. Cobb Photograph & Pocket Watch

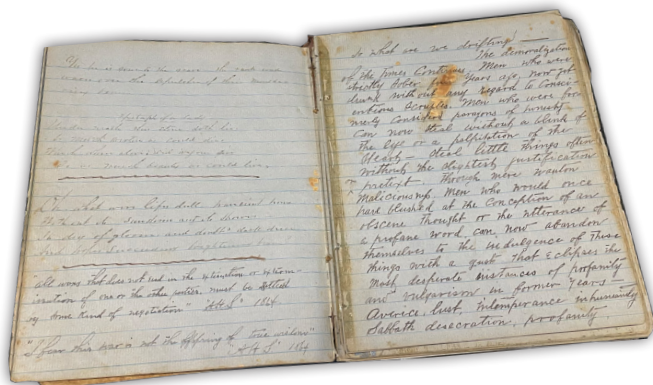
Born in 1829 in Ashville (St. Clair County), Rufus Cobb (right) was an attorney, businessman, and Alabama statesman. During the Civil War, Cobb commanded a company in the 10th Alabama Infantry Regiment and later served in the cavalry of the Army of Tennessee. He carried this gold pocket watch and commissioned this ambrotype of himself in uniform. The ADAH is grateful to Cobb's descendant, Edward Camp, for donating these items.

Cobb became governor in 1878 and served one term. Cobb's official papers have recently been digitized and are available online.



Bailey Soap Box Derby Collection

In 1960, Birmingham native Joe Ashley Bailey participated in the 1960 All-American Soap Box Derby in Akron, Ohio. The Bailey collection includes the derby car, helmets, t-shirts, and awards from the national race. The collection was donated by Bailey's daughter, Karen Bailey Watkins (right).



Flowers Family Civil War Diaries

On April 11, 1861, Permelia Catherine "Kate" Brooks married John Jefferson Flowers in Butler County. A day after their wedding, the first shots of the Civil War were fired at Fort Sumter. In a collection of more than twenty diaries, Kate and John documented

how the Civil War and its aftermath shaped daily life in Alabama. In her diary,

Kate describes her despair at being separated from her husband in April 1862 after he volunteered to join the Confederate cause. John's wartime writings reflect his conflicted feelings about the war. In 1865, he wrote, "It will take many years to wipe away pollution by which we have covered ourselves during this revolution." After the war ended, the Flowerses reunited and started a family. Kate died during childbirth in 1878. In 1900, John moved to Montgomery to manage the Flowers Lumber Company. He was an early supporter of the Women's College of Alabama, now Huntingdon College. After he died in 1905, the John Jefferson Flowers Memorial Hall on campus was named in his honor.

Cathy Fussell Quilts

In 2022, renowned southern quilter Cathy Fussell created this geography quilt depicting the curving shape of the Alabama River at Gee's Bend, where it surrounds the mostly African American community in rural Wilcox County. She set out to depict that portion of the river, her first attempt at "free motion" quilting without a pattern. Fussell's technique results in the fabric layers and stitches resembling topographical lines on a map. She has since created "map quilts" of rivers in several southern states. This quilt is one of two Fussell quilts now in the ADAH's collections.



James Spann Tie & Suspenders

When severe weather threatens, residents in north-central Alabama rely on meteorologist James Spann for live storm coverage. Spann has served as the chief meteorologist at Birmingham's ABC 33/40 since 1996, providing a reassuring presence on Alabama's worst weather days. When potentially dangerous weather is on the horizon, Spann often appears on-air sans suit jacket in his now-iconic suspenders, giving an unspoken cue to viewers to pay attention to what is happening outside their windows.

On April 27, 2011, sixty-two tornadoes touched down in Alabama, and 252 people lost their lives. During the devastating, historic tornado outbreak, Spann provided more than eight hours of live television coverage. His calm but stern warnings to take cover likely saved countless lives. Spann recently donated the suspenders he wore that day, along with a tie he has worn frequently on the air.



William Garlan "Pete" Baccus Collection

A new collection of uniforms, photographs, and a scrapbook documents the naval service of Glen Allen (Fayette County) native William Garlan "Pete" Baccus (left) and his life as a student at Alabama Polytechnic Institute (API), now Auburn University.

Baccus enlisted in the Navy in September 1945 and served aboard the USS *Yarnall* while the ship was stationed at the Naval Training Center in San Diego. After his honorable discharge in 1946, Baccus attended API, where he met his wife, Jean Marlow. As students, they lived in an Airstream travel trailer at the Auburn Trailer Court, built to accommodate the increasing numbers of veterans attending college after World War II. After earning his bachelor's degree in agricultural science, Baccus spent his career working for the Farmers Home Administration. We are grateful to Baccus' wife, Jean, and his children, Marlow McCullough and Bob Baccus, for donating his collection.



Share

The ADAH shares its vast permanent collections with the public in its EBSCO Research Room and online.



RESEARCH AT THE ADAH

The ADAH's EBSCO Research Room is open to all members of the public. Staff provide free assistance to in-person patrons, and, for a small fee, will fulfill research requests submitted by phone and email on any Alabama history topic. Free Research Consultations are available to help those beginning large projects to make the most of their time at the Archives.

In FY2023:

1,300

Patrons visited the
EBSCO Research Room

4,509

Email, Mail, & Phone
Inquiries Answered

150

Research Consultations
Completed

Popular Reference Topics & Trends in FY23

Nearly half of the year's research consultations were related to genealogical research. Other popular research topics and resources included:

- » Legislative History
- » The Montgomery Bus Boycott and Civil Rights
- » Abolitionism and Unionism
- » The Code of Alabama
- » Alabama Supreme Court Case Files

Permissions Requests and Reproduction Orders

From documentary filmmakers to book publishers and museums, content producers around the world request permission to use materials from the ADAH's permanent collections. Although low-resolution items are free to download for personal or educational use, high-resolution files are available only by submitting an Order Form and Use Agreement.

316 Permissions Requests Fulfilled

1,924 Collection Items Included in Fulfilled Orders or Permissions Requests

Info To Know:

- > The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Saturday from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Appointments are not required, but Research Consultations in advance of a visit are encouraged.
- > Submit a Research Request or schedule a Research Consultation at archives.alabama.gov/research/

The ADAH makes thousands of digitized records and photographs, along with hundreds of hours of audiovisual materials, available to anyone with an Internet connection.

Explore Our Digital Collections > digital.archives.alabama.gov

915,612

Digitized Items
Available Online

228,827

Digitized Files
Created in FY23

158,909

Digital Collections
Users in FY23

1,383,618

Digital Collections
Page Views in FY23

Significant Ongoing Digitization Projects

> ALABAMA MEDIA GROUP COLLECTION

In 2016, the Alabama Media Group donated more than 3 million photographic negatives taken for the *Birmingham News*, the *Huntsville Times*, and Mobile's *Press-Register*, spanning most of the 20th century. The ADAH Digital Assets staff are scanning both the negative sleeves to create a searchable index and the negatives themselves, revealing many images never before seen by the public. In FY23:

22,920 Negative Sleeves Scanned

188,089 sleeves are now searchable online,
Approximately 89,850 remain to be digitized.

729 Negatives From the Collection Digitized

8,881 images are now online with more added regularly.

> WSFA COLLECTION

In 2021, Montgomery's WSFA-TV donated much of the station's historic news footage. The collection includes more than seven thousand audiovisual items recorded from the 1950s through the early 2000s. In FY23:

619 Hours of Footage Digitized

122 Terabytes of Storage Consumed



Crowdsourced Transcription Projects

Since 2018, the ADAH has enlisted virtual volunteers to help transcribe online its archival collections. Using an open-source software called FromThePage, the public has helped make more Alabama history accessible.

COLLECTIONS TRANSCRIBED IN FY23:

83 Letters by Harriett Pinkston Engelhardt

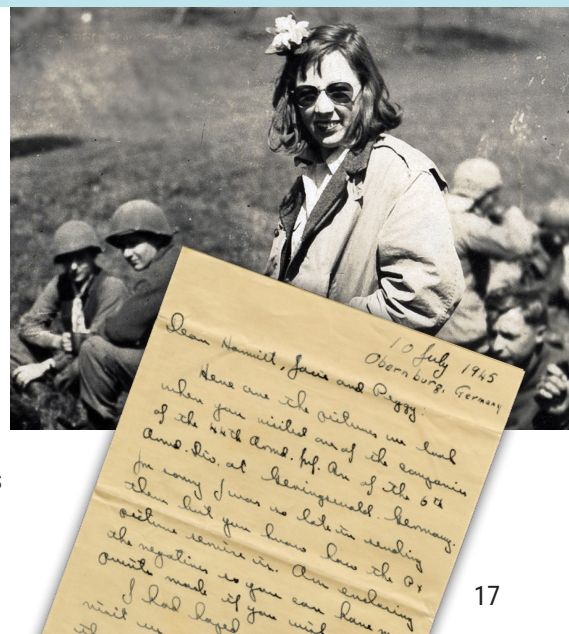
During World War II, Engelhardt (right) operated a Red Cross Clubmobile serving troops in Europe. She wrote letters to her family in Alabama, describing her work and experiences. In October 1945, the day before her scheduled return home, she was killed in a Jeep accident.

74 Alabama Supreme Court Case Files

These case files created between 1820 and 1877 include interrogatories, exhibits, motions, and other details not included in the published rulings.

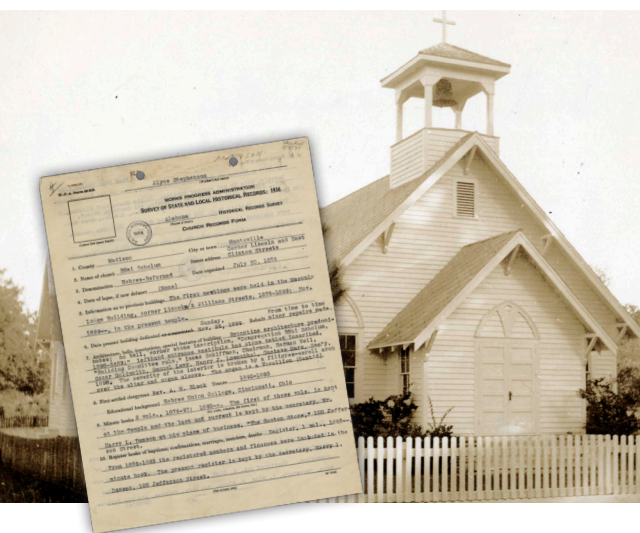
89,611 Entries in the 1875 Voter Registration Books

These ledgers contain voter registration oaths taken by men in 32 Alabama counties in advance of an August 1875 referendum on whether to hold a new constitutional convention.



> NEWLY DIGITIZED COLLECTIONS HIGHLIGHTS

These collections are examples of many that were digitized in FY23 and are now available to browse in the ADAH's Digital Collections. **Visit digital.archives.alabama.gov to explore.**



WPA Church & Synagogue History Surveys

In 1936, the Alabama Historical Records Survey of the Works Progress Administration (WPA) began creating an inventory of churches and synagogues in Alabama. Field workers collected information about specific local congregations, and staff at the state office in Birmingham wrote historical sketches and summaries that were intended for publication. This collection was made available online in August and includes surveys of more than one thousand Alabama congregations. Although limited in scope, representing 42 counties and only Episcopal and Jewish congregations in some locations, the collection contains valuable data on Alabama religious history in the years preceding World War II.

County Highway Maps, 1937-2020

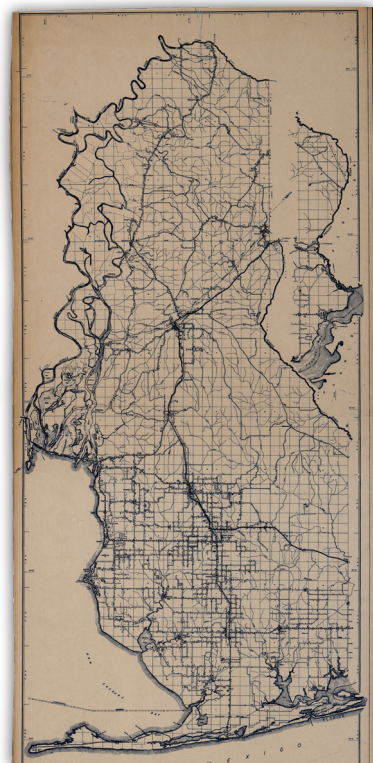
A collection of more than 500 Alabama county highway maps spanning nine decades is now available to browse. These maps document the evolution of our state's roadways from sleepy local thoroughfares to the major interstates that transformed Alabama's economy and society. (At right: Baldwin County, 1937)

> To browse, visit digital.archives.alabama.gov. Select "Maps & Architectural Drawings," and enter "County Highway" in the search box.

Confederate Unit Files



The Confederate regimental history files contain a variety of materials documenting the histories of Alabama units. Collected over decades by ADAH staff, the collection includes correspondence, historical sketches, newspaper clippings, muster rolls, rosters, and transcriptions of manuscripts. The addition of the Confederate Alabama Militia and Home Guard Unit Files and the Deceased Alabama Confederate Soldiers' Files in FY23 completed a long-term project to make Confederate unit files accessible online.



Civil War & Reconstruction Governors of Alabama Digital Papers Project

Since September 2020, the ADAH has been digitizing the official papers of the eleven men who served as governors of Alabama from the eve of the Civil War through the Reconstruction period. These administrative records include correspondence, appointments, proclamations, pardons and paroles, and more. They are valuable records documenting a tumultuous and transformative period of history from the perspective of Alabama's chief executive. Approximately 28,000 documents are now available online in the ADAH's Digital Collections. Virtual volunteers are now transcribing the records online, allowing them to be more easily searched.

Records of the following administrations are now online:

- » Andrew B. Moore, 1857-1861
- » John Gill Shorter, 1861-1863
- » Thomas H. Watts, 1863-1865
- » Lewis E. Parsons, 1865
- » Robert M. Patton, 1865-1867
- » Wager Swayne, 1867-1868
- » William Hugh Smith, 1868-1870
- » Robert B. Lindsay, 1870-1872
- » David P. Lewis, 1872-1874
- » George S. Houston, 1874-1878
- » Rufus W. Cobb, 1878-1882

These collections are examples of several hundred that were processed in FY23 and are now available to researchers in the EBSCO Research Room. Some have also been digitized. Visit archives.alabama.gov/research/explore/.

Mitchell-Cribbs Family Collection, ca. 1840 to 2018

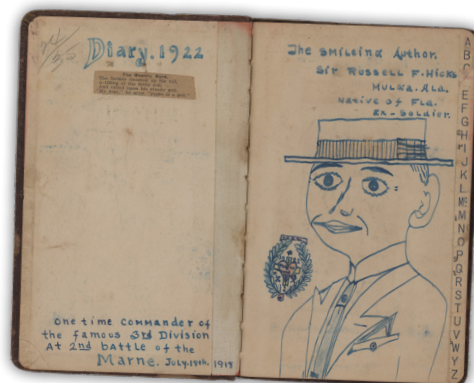
Documenting the lives of two families who lived in north-central Alabama during the Civil War and the decades following, this collection includes correspondence, land deeds, maps, a recipe book, and photographs along with recent genealogical research, family trees, biographical sketches, and personal histories.

Victoria Clements Medical Ledger, ca. 1925

Consisting of a single ledger belonging to Victoria Bradley Clements, this collection highlights early surgical and medical practices in the first part of the twentieth century. A native of Barbour County, Clements graduated around 1922 from the Laura Hill Hospital School of Nursing in Montgomery. The hospital was established in 1897 by pioneering heart surgeon Dr. Luther Leonidas Hill. Some of the procedures outlined in the ledger include an appendectomy, a Cesarean section, and an amputation of a limb.

Russell Franklin Hicks Diaries, 1922 to 1931, 1943

This collection includes eleven diaries kept by Russell Franklin Hicks (1897-1947) detailing his experiences working at poultry farms and coal mines in Alabama and Florida in the 1920s and 1930s and working as a patrolman at Naval Air Station Jacksonville in Florida in the 1940s. In addition to everyday observations, Hicks records significant personal milestones, such as his 1923 marriage, along with notable local and national events including a deadly 1922 coal mine explosion in Dolomite, Alabama, and Charles Lindbergh's 1927 flight from New York City to Paris.



Beulah V. Wright Family Papers, ca. 1900 to 1948

Beulah V. Wright (1921-1939) graduated from Etowah High School in Attalla in 1939 and died of an undiagnosed illness, likely leukemia, just a few months later. Wright's mother carefully packed her belongings into a cedar chest that would sit virtually untouched for more than 75 years. These items serve as a time capsule and vividly document the experiences of a high school student in the 1930s. The collection includes a diary documenting Wright's three-week stay at a hospital in Gadsden, an autobiographical essay, a notebook on Wright's illness kept by her mother, the portrait at left, and a scrapbook containing cards and letters of sympathy from friends and relatives following Wright's death.

Barron C. Powers Papers, 1921 to 1965

In 1919, Elmore County native Barron C. Powers enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps in Montgomery. After he completed training at Patterson Field in Ohio, Powers returned to Alabama to join Maxwell Air Force Base's new aerial photography program. In the 1920s and 1930s, Powers served as an aerial photographer and flew missions to flood zones throughout Alabama, documenting the devastation in local towns and providing much-needed supplies. During World War II, his training led to a commission with the Third Photographic Group in North Africa. Some photographs of particular interest in this collection are aerial shots

of southern Alabama and Mississippi during the "Great Flood of 1929," a natural disaster that left thousands of people displaced and marked the first time in United States history that military aircraft were mobilized for civilian aid. Other items include several hundred aerial photographs of Alaska, Central America, Morocco, and Algeria; Powers' military record; and a scrapbook on the Third Photographic Group's deployments to Algeria and Morocco during World War II.



Share

The ADAH promotes an improved awareness and understanding of Alabama history with special concentration on history education in Alabama schools, museum exhibits, and public programs.



K-12 Field Trips in FY23

"This is the best, most thorough museum for 4th graders learning about Alabama History." – Teacher

19,209

K-12 Visitors
Explored the
the Museum
of Alabama

99%

Of Teachers
Surveyed Rated
Tour Experience
as "Excellent"

1,343

Students
Participated
in Virtual
Field Trips

K-12 classes visited the Museum of Alabama from locations across the state in FY23.

Resources, Programs, & Outreach for Students & Educators



Treking Through History Traveling Resources

These backpacks and trunks are designed to supplement the classroom learning experience. They correspond with the *Alabama Course of Study: Social Studies* standards, feature a variety of Alabama history topics, and arrive at schools filled with an assortment of learning tools including activity sheets, books, videos, and copies of original primary source materials. Backpacks and trunks are free to use; teachers pay only for shipping.

75 Traveling Resources Loaned in FY23

5,837 Students Served

Summer Library Programs

In June and July, ADAH Education staff offer free, interactive programs for students at public libraries across the state. This year's theme was *A Community Called Alabama*, coinciding with the annual Collaborative Summer Library Program's theme *All Together Now (Kindness/Friendship/Unity)*. Students learned about Alabamians like Helen Keller and John Lewis who made a difference in their communities. The programs included a book reading, hands-on activities, and a take-home craft.

21 Programs Held at Alabama Libraries

478 Children Served



Ft. Toulouse – Ft. Jackson
Frontier Days



926
K-12 Students
Visited ADAH's Booth

Rosa Parks Museum
Juneteenth Celebration



315
People Visited
ADAH's Booth

The Alabama History Hub

The Alabama History Hub is a one-stop K-12 educator resource for finding primary sources, lesson plans, and classroom activities curated by ADAH staff. This custom-designed database on the ADAH's website offers a variety of customizable filters that allow searches by time period, grade level, course of study standards, and more. The Hub debuted in August 2022 with the launch of the ADAH's new website.

484 Resources Available on the Hub

3,572 Page Views

603 Resources Downloaded

alabamahistoryhub.org

Alabama HISTORY INSTITUTES 2023

8 Locations | 95 K-12 Educators Served | From 31 Counties

"As a 4th-grade Alabama history teacher this was perfect to give me more in-depth content knowledge. I drove two hours to attend this session and would drive very far to attend another."

– AHI Participant

These three-day summer workshops equip Alabama K-12 educators with resources and content to strengthen social studies instruction in their classrooms. Held in locations around the state, each workshop is designed and facilitated by educators in partnership with ADAH staff.

Participants receive professional development credit hours and a stipend. Applications for the 2024 institutes are open on the ADAH's website through March 8, 2024.

2023 AHI LOCATIONS

- » **MOBILE:** *Diversity in Storytelling: The Untold History of Mobile*
- » **HUNTSVILLE:** *Making it Happen: Teaching History in the Literacy-Focused Classroom*
- » **TUSCALOOSA:** *Farms to Factories: Alabama's Industrial Revolution*
- » **BIRMINGHAM:** *Birmingham's Place in Alabama's Rich History*
- » **MONTGOMERY:** *Resistance and Resilience in the Face of Jim Crow: Alabama from 1880 to 1920*
- » **AUBURN:** *Reconstruction: Rebuilding of a Nation*
- » **FLORENCE:** *Bring It Home: Local Ties to the History We Teach*
- » **DOTHAN:** *Sowing the Seed of Dothan's Agricultural Legacy*



Share

The ADAH promotes an improved awareness and understanding of Alabama history with special concentration on history education in Alabama schools, museum exhibits, and public programs.

Museum of Alabama Visitors in FY23

9,667 General Visitors

5,481 Alabamians

3,429 Other U.S. States

757 International

21,016 Tour Visitors

19,209 K-12

1,807 Other Group Tours

30,683

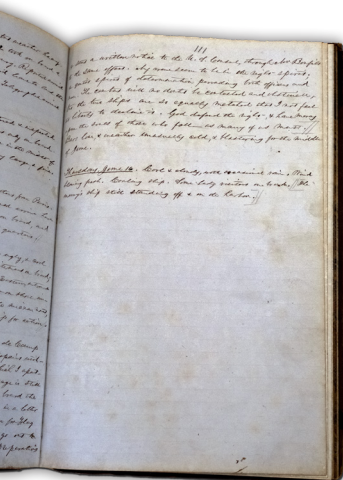
**Total Museum
Visitors in FY23**

Temporary Exhibits

C.S.S. ALABAMA LOGBOOK

In July, the ADAH placed on temporary view the logbook of the C.S.S. *Alabama* in conjunction with a special preview screening of the new Alabama Public Television documentary *Sink the Alabama*. The logbook's entries include Capt. Raphael Semmes' remarks on weather and wind, the condition of the ship, and details of the other vessels captured by the *Alabama*.

During the Battle of Cherbourg in June 1864, A. G. Bartelli, Semmes' steward, saved the logbook shortly before the *Alabama* sank. The steward gave up his spot on a lifeboat to retrieve the logbook and other documents from the captain's cabin. Bartelli drowned shortly thereafter. Semmes then entrusted the documents to two volunteers, who kept them in their shirts as they swam from the sinking ship. Neutral vessels rescued both men, who later returned the documents to Semmes. Nearly fifty years later, Semmes' daughter, Electra Semmes Colston, donated the logbook to the ADAH.



ALABAMA & THE

American Presidency

In February, the ADAH debuted *Alabama and the American Presidency* on the 8th floor of the Alabama State House. This photographic exhibit explores visits to the Yellowhammer State by presidents, first ladies, vice presidents, and presidential hopefuls. The exhibit also include visits to the White House by Alabamians.



Dwight D. Eisenhower in Birmingham, 1952. ADAH, Alabama Media Group Collection, Birmingham News, photographer unknown.

Museum Make & Take Activities

The Museum's youngest visitors explore Alabama history topics in the Hands-On Gallery while completing fun and engaging crafts to take home. Themes and activities change monthly.

**874 children completed
Make & Takes in FY23**



FY23 Outreach & Promotion

415,432 Website Page Views

15,926 Email Subscribers

1,831 Present & Past News
Magazine Subscribers

Public Programs

The ADAH offers a wide variety of programs for the general public to connect audiences with resources, training, and new scholarship. Programs are held in-person and streamed live. Past programs are available on YouTube.

LECTURE-BASED PROGRAMS:		STATS
Food For Thought Lunchtime Lecture Series		
Hours (12 programs)		12
Live Attendance		994
Cumulative YouTube Views in FY23		5,603
Book Talks		
Hours (3 programs)		3
Live Attendance		142
Cumulative YouTube Views in FY23		419
History/Now: Conversations on the Past + Present		
Hours (1 program)		1
Live Attendance		33
Cumulative YouTube Views in FY23		510
Juneteenth Lecture		
Hours		1
Live Attendance		50
Cumulative YouTube Views in FY23		132
Special Lecture Series: Alabama Radio Moments		
Hours (8 programs)		7
Live Attendance		296
Cumulative YouTube Views in FY23		1,668
INSTRUCTIONAL SERIES:		
Research Rundown: History & Genealogy How-To Online Series		
Hours (7 programs, approx. 30 minutes each)		3
Attendance (Online)		188
Cumulative YouTube Views in FY23		1,292
Half-Day Summer Genealogy Workshops		
Hours (3 workshops)		9
Attendance (In-Person Only)		104
Archives/Five Online Programs Highlighting Collections		
Hours (6 programs, 5 minutes each)		0.5
Cumulative YouTube Views in FY23		2,424
ANNUAL SPECIAL EVENTS:		
Alabama in the Movies Summer Film Festival		
Hours (4 film screenings)		8
Attendance (In-Person)		188
Black History Month Saturday Family Event		
Hours		5
Attendance (In-Person)		276
Halloween at the Archives: A Spooktacular Family Event		
Hours		2
Attendance (In-Person)		323

In FY2023:

47

Public Programs
Presented by the ADAH

51.5

Hours of Public
Programs Presented

2,594

People Attended a Live
Public Program

13,613

Viewers of FY23 Program
Recordings on YouTube

ADAH Social Media Engagement:

27,975

Facebook
Followers

12,429

YouTube
Subscribers

3,844

X (Twitter)
Followers

1,896

Instagram
Followers

Follow Us:

- » facebook.com/alabamaarchives
- » youtube.com/alabamarchives
- » twitter.com/alabamarchives
- » instagram.com/alabamaarchives

Records Management

The ADAH assists state agencies, local governments, and local history organizations in the proper care of records and artifacts.

The ADAH's Records Management Section offers records training to state and local government and higher education staff. Attendees learn about records law in Alabama and identify best practices for maintaining, storing, and disposing of their records.

In FY2023:

PARTICIPATING ENTITIES	SESSIONS	OFFICES	ATTENDEES
State Agencies & District Attorney Offices	62	33	324
Local Governments	15	35	979
Colleges & Universities	5	13	66

Terms To Know:

RECORDS DISPOSITION AUTHORITY (RDA):

This document approved by the State Records and Local Government Records Commissions establishes disposition requirements by designating government records as either temporary records, which may be legally destroyed after a specified period, or permanent records, which must be preserved in perpetuity.

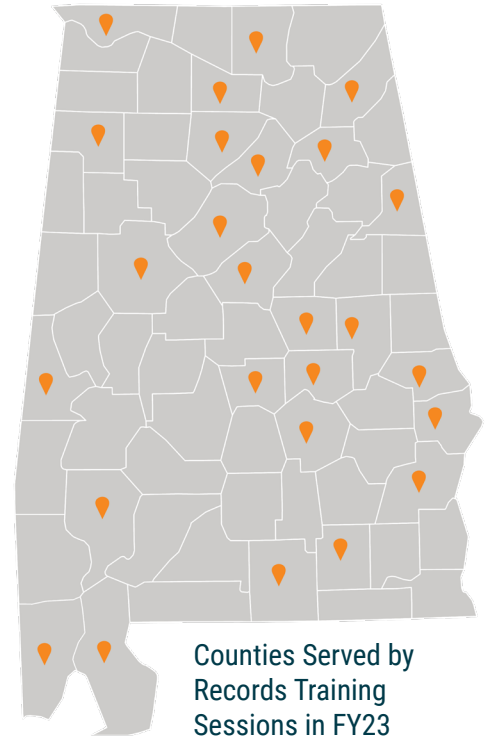
RDA IMPLEMENTATION REPORT:

State agencies, district attorneys' offices, and public colleges and universities are required to submit this annual report summarizing records activities from the previous fiscal year, including information about records destroyed.

6

State Agency RDAs Approved:

- » State Council on the Arts
- » Office of Prosecution Services
- » Women's Hall of Fame
- » Crime Victims Compensation Commission
- » State Health Planning and Development Agency
- » Department of Veterans Affairs



RDA IMPLEMENTATION REPORTS

State Agencies	148
District Attorney Offices	39
Colleges & Universities	29

STATE RECORDS CENTER (SEE P. 5)

Total Records Holdings	51,675 cubic feet
Agencies Using Services	41

1,770 State Agency & Local Government Inquiries Resolved

Learn More

> Visit archives.alabama.gov/manage/

Staff offer guidance in best practices for collections care and conservation, historical interpretation, and organizational administration. These services are free and available to any Alabama history organization.

In FY2023:

244

Consultations With Local
History Organizations

73

History Organizations
Served

31

Counties Represented

Museum Services Staff Provided Consultations to the Following in FY23:

Autauga County

Autauga County Heritage Association
Mt. Sinai Rosenwald School Committee

Baldwin County

Foley Railroad Museum
Holmes Medical Museum

Blount County

J.B. Pennington High School

Chilton County

Confederate Memorial Park

Coffee County

Elba Museum Group

Colbert County

Helen Keller Birthplace
Muscle Shoals Sound Studio
FAME Studios
Alabama Music Hall of Fame

Cullman County

Ave Maria Grotto

Dallas County

Old Depot Museum
Selma-Dallas County Historic
Preservation Society
Temple Mishkan Israel
Dallas County Public Library

Elmore County

Elmore County Museum
Elmore County Black History Museum
Eclectic Museum

Escambia County

Poarch Creek Indians Museum

Etowah County

Nichols Library
Neely Henry Lake Association

Henry County

The ATTA: Library of STEM and History

Jackson County

Scottsboro Boys Museum

Jefferson County

Arlington Historic House
Birmingham Black Radio Museum
Vulcan Park and Museum
Southern Vintage Fire Apparatus Museum
Alabama Sports Hall of Fame
Negro Southern League Museum
Alabama Historical Radio Society

Temple Beth El

Rickwood Field

Lauderdale County

Florence Arts and Museums

Lawrence County

Oakville Indian Mounds Education Center
Jesse Owens Museum

Limestone County

Athens State University Archives

Lowndes County

West Alabama Heritage Commission
Elmore Bolling Initiative—Lowndesboro
School Project

Macon County

The Ridge Macon County Archaeology
Project

Shorter Heritage Museum

Madison County

Huntsville Historic Foundation
U.S. Space and Rocket Center
Huntsville History Center Group
Signals: Museum of Information
Explosion

Oakwood University

Marion County

Coal Miners Museum

Marshall County

Albertville Museum
Guntersville Historical Society

Mobile County

Mobile Medical Museum
MOWA Band of Choctaw Indians
Mount Vernon Historical Preservation
Society

Bishop State Community College

Montgomery County

Landmarks Foundation
Montgomery County Historical Society
Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts
Mount Zion AME Zion Church
Huntingdon College Library and Special
Collections

Holt Street Baptist Church
Heritage Music Foundation
Whitfield Foods

Monroe County

Monroe County Museum

Perry County

Gus Mitchell Store Museum

St. Clair County

Pell City Museum
Springville Preservation Society

Tallapoosa County

Tallapoossee Historical Museum
Wellborn Musclegar Museum

Tuscaloosa County

Historic Tuscaloosa

Washington County

Washington County Museum
St. Stephens Historical Park
Prestwick Preservation Society

Wilcox County

Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center
Camden Shoe Shop and Quilt Museum

Contact Us

The Museum of Alabama is open Monday through Saturday, 8:30–4:30.

The EBSCO Research Room is open Tuesday through Saturday, 8:30–4:30.

SCHOOL & GROUP TOUR RESERVATIONS

(334) 242-4364 • sarah.mcqueen@archives.alabama.gov

REFERENCE QUESTIONS

(334) 242-4435 • reference.archives@archives.alabama.gov

STATE & LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS MANAGEMENT

(334) 353-5039 • becky.hebert@archives.alabama.gov

MUSEUM SERVICES

(334) 353-9152 • erik.london@archives.alabama.gov

DONATE HISTORICAL MATERIALS

(334) 353-4726 • haley.aaron@archives.alabama.gov

A complete staff directory is available at archives.alabama.gov.



Alabama DEPARTMENT OF
ARCHIVES & HISTORY

archives.alabama.gov

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